WENDELL POST

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Spray Flash

As we prepared to go to press, the Post learned that Arthur Brodeur, N.U. District Manager for Franklin Co., informed the Wendell Selectboard that Northeast Utilities will not spray their powerlines in Wendell until November 15, 1980. He did not say whether they would do so after that date.

Northeast Utilities Rethinks Wendell Spraying

Northeast Utilities Electric Co. uses Bouvel 520, an herbicide, to clear brush underneath its power lines. This substance is considered by some scientists to be highly toxic(mutagenic & carcinogenic). Wendell town meeting voters considered it to be dangerous enough that they adopted a by-law banning its use at the Annual Town Meeting June 5th. On August 27th, a special town meeting appropriated $5,000. to enforce the by-law.

Wendell's stand on the issue puts the town in the middle of a complex legal, scientific and environmental problem that faces citizens nationwide. At the heart of the issue, though, is the right of a community to protect itself from a practice that it considers harmful. This right is opposed by the prevailing government tendency to pre-empt "home rule" regulations in favor of federal agencies' standards of practice.

But Wendell resident, Nina Keller, feels it is valuable for local citizens and communities to challenge federal guidelines. Having spent 2 years studying the nature and use of Bouvel 520, she finds evidence to cause alarm from its use. She points out that Bouvel 520 is a dioxin, a chemical shown to have highly toxic properties. She worries about the U.S. Environmetal Protection Angency's approval of its use when the data provided for this judgement has come primarily from Bouvel manufacturer Visicol Company.

On August 21, the Wendell selectboard and other citizens met with 2 representatives of N.U. to discuss this conflict and to consider alternatives to the herbicide spraying program. Bernard Payne, N.U. Asst. Coordinator of Land Clearing, argued for the effectiveness and efficiency of using Bouvel. He said, "alternatives could cost 7 - 20 times as much as spraying." At that meeting, Nina Keller challenged that estimate, saying the ratio was too high. She also wondered why the spraying was repeated this year if the chemical was so effective. Payne replied that it was standard practice to do a touch-up spray the year after an initial spray. Later he did say "the figures were more or less off the top of my head". cont. on Pg. 5

Bicentennial

Dedicated to the Wendell Post

That hardy night, first Wendellite
Two hundred years ago
Reaped meagre yield from frugal field,
He scored the edges of the ledges
With ox cart to and fro.
He vied and died on that hilltop,
His grave is there to show.

What remains of dear-won gains?
Just empty cellar holes?
The town has spread where commerce led;
Now we race to market place,
Lead semi-urban lives.
With different-labors we're good neighbors
We hope we're friendly souls.

B.M.

Swift River School 3rd and 4th graders board the homeward bound bus. Left to right right are: Ethan Froebl, Bobby Saviski, Michael Moon, Paul Judice, Se h Stewart, and Kerry Pistone.

High School Future To Be Decided

The future of secondary education for Wendell students has been left in the air by a flurry of hearings and meetings in July and August. For a short time it appeared that high school would be in Turners Falls. But a town meeting called by petition reversed that decision. The issue is far from resolved. In this report we hope to summarize the discussion so far.

The source of dissatisfaction with the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School can be symbolized by overcrowding. The school, built over 20 years ago, was designed for 800 students and now serves approximately 1100. This cramping, a problem in itself, is a source of poor quality education in the minds of some Wendell residents. While most Wendell residents acknowledge the overcrowding problem, many are worried about the impact on taxpayers, alreading feeling strapped, and about the relative uncertainty of an alternative schooling arrangement. In the end, uncertainty prevailed and town meeting voters have put off a decision for a change until the Annual Town Election in May 1981.

What are the ways overcrowding figures into this decision? By Mahar's own figures it is 37.5% enrolled over its designed capacity. Turners Falls, the most likely alternative, has been 50% underenrolled. Furthermore, even if Erving and Wendell students all enroll at Turners Falls, that school would be 900 students short of its 1200 pupil capacity.

By the numbers it seems natural to assume that there might be a more relaxed atmosphere for learning where the environment provides more room to move. Ephriam Robbins, who followed the study committees' work and made his own observations at the two schools, made the point at several meetings that the relationship between student and teacher seemed more open and supportive at Turners Falls. He noted, too, that because Turners was a new school there were more up-to-date facilities (e.g. the library and science labs). The teacher-pupil ratio at Mahar is 1-14.9 and 1-12.5 at Turners Falls. Nevertheless there are parents of present and former Mahar students who feel that the education provided there is adequate.

Added to this concern about quality of education is the fact that Mahar has lost its accreditation with the New England Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. This fact is not absolute but does reflect the way the Association and the school itself looks at its program. It is not a sudden process, but one that goes

Mahar Cont. Pg. 3

Choosing Education

No question, the issue of secondary education in Wendell is up for review. At the August 18th School Committee meeting Joe Diemand stated, "This is an issue that will divide the town." If you count the signatures petitioning for and against the August 27th Special Town Meeting, you might think Joe was on to something, since the two numbers were virtually equal. For sure, it's the kind of conflict that could exacerbate the kinds of tensions that already exist in our town politics. But I feel certain that we are being offered at the same time a chance for new understanding and cooperation in our live together in Wendell.

There are vast differences in our attitudes about education. It seems to me these differences need to be seriously considered as part of committing ourselves to a school system. Surely, not everyore's needs can be fully met by any school system - our resources are limited. However, do we serve ourselves well by ignoring some needs with a majority vote?

Education is more than school buildings and facilities or a "babysitting service" as Ted Lewis suggests. In large measure , it should be communication and access to information. The process that determines our educational program should likewise provide access and an exchange of ideas about what schooling really is and what education could be.

When we were discussing the possibility of sending a limited number of students to the Amherst-Pelham school, Cheryl Richardson worried, "As a school committee member, I don't want to have to pick and choose who will go to what school." But the School Committee does choose what school Wendell kids attend. My hope is that the upcoming Study Committee sessions will provide a choice for all Wendell citizens. The challenge is that it could be a choice that avoids Cheryl's dilemma of leaving someone out.

Maybe more than other town decisions, this is an opportunity we must make for ourselves. I'm convinced that our kids won't be the only ones to benefit from giving it an honest try.

by Michael Idoine

Phone Rate Info. Meeting Sept. 16

Toll-free dialing within Franklin County may become a reality if Rep. Bill Benson's plans succeed. He plans to put on an information hearing at Mahar Regional School Sept. 16 to explain the means and rationale of this plan. All east county citizens including Wendell are invited to take part in this discussion.

Tentatively, Benson sees the future strategy as follows. All interested towns in the county (he says there are now 16-18 committed) will sign a petition requesting formal intervenor status at the upcoming DPU hearing. This process should be completed by mid-October. The signatures of the Selectboard or 20 registered voters (or both) would fulfill the requirements for this petition.

The formal DPU hearing should take place late winter or early spring of next year. This hearing will address the citizens' request for a rate change that would provide the improved service. Benson says "there is a definite hope we'll get changes"and that he is looking for people to help organize this effort.

The Town Hall was full to capacity at the August Special Town Meeting where the previous decision to leave Mahar this fall was overturned.

Special Meetings Move & Remove

Two special town meetings in August were highlighted by the debate over the future of secondary education for Wendell citizens. Additional action saw money approved to pay old bills, insulate the Library attic, preserve town records and reduce the tax rate.

On August 5 the special town meeting voted 49 - 33 to withdraw from the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District. By a 41 - 17 vote the meeting voted to authorize the School Committee to enter into a long term agreement with the Gill-Montague Regional School District and instructed them to do so by September, 1980. At one point in the discussion a motion to table the issue nearly passed 41 - 38. This move arose from expressions of uncertainty about making any changes at this time.

The feelings of uncertainty gained the upperhand at the August 27th meeting where both of these articles were recinded by votes of 78 - 59 and 80 - 57. Instead the town voted to extend and expand (by 2 members) the School Study Committee and instructed to hold three meetings in September and October where the committee and other citizens would set goals and agenda for the committee's work. (See related article P.)

Also at the August 5th meeting the town voted unanimoustlt to appropriate $350 for old bills, $300 for library insulation, $1,000 to preserve (microfilm) and index town records (to be reimbursed by the Mass. Historical Comm. grant). A motion carried to appropriate $35,000 from free cash to set against the tax rate.

At the August 27th meeting $5,000 was appropriated for legal fees to enforce a herbicide spray ban voted at the Annual Town Meeting. An amendment gave the select board a vote of confidence to negotiate "a mutually satisfactory solution" to the conflict which did not compromise the bylaw.

The Wendell Post needs your contributions concerning official Town business, current news, social notes, letters to the editor, and other information of public interest

Also of great importance are volunteer helpers to distribute the paper, as well as good typists.

Wendell Post display ads are 1 col.X 1-1/2 inches @ $5.00 per issue.

Laurel Drive Gates

TOWN ACCESS DEBATED

In response to a citizens' petition, the Wendell Selectboard arranged a meeting with Dept. of Environmental Management officials held July 23 at the Ruggles Pond office. At issue was the convenience of the gate closings on Laurel Drive. A compromise was suggested that called for support from Wendell residents.

Several Wendell citizens in attendance complained about the loss of the use of this road when the gates were closed. Before the gates were put in place 3 years ago, many townspeople used this route as a shortcut , or to enjoy the scenery of the forest. Now the road is open at the convenience of the Ruggles Pond Park schedule.

Carroll Holmes, D.E.M. Regional Supervisor, and park employee, Roland Levielle explained that the gates had been installed to cut down on increasing amounts of vandalism to the park area. Roland Levielle showed the group a 2 page list of damages, including stolen picnic tables and fire places, trash barrels and bottles thrown into the pond, and general wanton destruction. Holmes pointed out Dept. regulation that forbade through traffic on D.E.M. roads. The reason for this is the unclear legal liability of using these roads.

Most of the Wendell group were not satisfied and asked that the gates be open longer and more regularly. Holmes replied that he did not have the budget to supply a longer supervision of the park. Rep.Bill Benson, who was in attendance, reinforced this argument by pointing out that the legislature had been very stingy with the D.E.M. appropriation.

At this point the group discussed the possibility of a Wendell person(s) being made responsible for opening and closing the gates, so the hours of use might be extended. Holmes said that he would consider such an idea, "as long as they're reliable".

Ingrid Pfohl and Marion Herrick have been particularly concerned about this problem. Any Wendell citizen who would like to help them solve it should call them.

WENDELL POST

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Mahar Cont.

on over the years. The new Turners Falls High School was built as a solution to similar process and problem at the old Turners Falls High School. Mahar's problems are complex and should take some time to fix. (See below for further discussion of accreditation)

The place where the numbers had a telling impact was in the consideration of the projected budgets for Wendell's high school options. Roughly those budgets can be compared below:

MAHAR MEMBERSHIP 1980-81	COMBINED COST TUITIONING ONE HALF STUDENTS EACH TO MAHAR AND TURNERS	
Total Assessment $59,300	$94,250	combined tuition
	+30,000	transportation
	$124,250	total cost
	-25,000	state aid
	-15,000	transportation aid
	$ 84,250	net cost

TUITION TO TURNERS FALLS ONLY	
$100,600	tuition
+ 20,000	transportation
$120,600	total cost
-25,000	state aid
-10,000	transportation aid
$ 85,600	net cost

In considering this data it must be remembered that some figures are necessarily approximate. More importantly Wendell taxpayers can expect that various factors will change these numbers in different directions in the upcoming year.

Considering first the Mahar assessment, Wendell currently pays about 3.9% of the total assessment. This figure shall increase as Erving students go instead to Turners Falls to about 4.9% The town of Orange is seriously considering sending some Mahar students to a Tech/Vocational School. If this move occurs, Wendell's percentage assessment would increase significantly again. These possible increases may be balanced in some measure by an increased rate of reimbursement due to Erving's leaving the Regional District. Further, a decision to expand the building at Mahar would make Wendell liable to a share in paying for such a project. These possibilities should develop more clearly as this school year progresses.

The tuition figures for Turners Falls are based on last year's enrollment. Not counting inflation the tuition cost should go down since the fixed costs of running the school will be divided by a larger number of students as more Erving students enroll there (as it would further decline if Wendell students were enrolled there). At this time it is hard to get an accurate fix on what those reductions might be, but something that might be more predictable after Erving's first year at Turners Falls.

Decisions about the future of Wendell secondary education will depend, of course, on more than numbers. The August 27 town meeting extends the life of the School Study Committee. Their first meetings in September and October should provide an opportunity for Wendell residents to give the Committee guidelines and goals for its future study. It could provide a unique chance for all Wendell citizens to assume a natural involvement in their children's education.

The Wendell Post hopes to follow and report this process closely and in depth. If Wendell faces the choice of withdrawing from Mahar next year, we hope to make it an easier one.

"What Is Accreditation"?

by G. Gulick

The failure of Mahar Regional to gain accreditation - a failure strongly linked to overcrowding - is an issue which hasn't disappeared with Wendell's decision to remain at least for the year in the Regional District.

In private as in town meetings people have expressed their concerns about students attending a school which is not accredited: "Will kids get into college or a training program after Mahar?" "Are my kids getting a decent high school education?"

Les Olson who is an evaluation specialist for the New England Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges says, " Accreditation first of all means membership in an accrediting agency. The process is completely voluntary and has no relationship to any public agency such as the Mass. Dept. of Education". This is a statement echoed by Bob Blumenthal, counsel to the Dept. "It's not a big issue in the Commonwealth", he said, "I've been here three years and this is maybe my first call." Where accreditation is a big issue, Blumenthal pointed out, is in the area of private technical schools teaching electronics, mechanics or tractor trailer driving, usually at a post-secondary level.

For Olson the importance of the process is not for the college-bound student -- about 30% of the average graduating class -- but for the total school population and the communities which support the regionals. "Accreditation may be helpful on an application but the lack of it won't keep students out of college, especially now when colleges have to recruit students", said Olson

The accreditation process goes something like this. A high school applies for membership in N.E.A.S.S.C. For about a year and a half the administration and school committee study the needs of their school and communities and then draft a statement of goals and the philosophy and means which they will adopt to meet those goals.

At that point the school is visited by a committee of peers, in the case of Mahar a group of professionals from public education at the secondary level. For about a week the committee talks to teachers and administrators, observes classes and teaching methods and evaluates the program facilities. The judgements of the committee are based on the initial statements of the applying school ;the criteria are roughly described by the question, "Are you doing what you say you are doing or want to do?"

Overcrowding at Mahar in the judgement of the accrediting committee has kept the regional school from meeting its stated goals. Local School Superintendent Len Lubinsky said that making an estimate of the quality of education is difficult for either a lay or professional group. "The single thing that stands out as a difference between Mahar and Turners Falls is that of numbers of students. It's just so much easier getting around at Turners."

Overcrowding at Mahar will be somewhat lessened in the short term by the withdrawal of Erving and the possible tuitioning of Orange students to technical schools. In the long term a building program will probably be needed, an effort which, according to Lubinsky, has been verbally supported by state education officials.

Building is a local decision. One of the areas studied by the accrediting committee is the committment of the community to employ its resources in the service of stated educational goals. Whether those resources do indeed exist might emerge as source of disagreement between the community and the accrediting committee

In the view of educational specialists at the Regional Education offices of the Dept. of Education, the failure of communities and schools to meet accreditation standards is a serious one. Both Sydney Pierce in Springfield and Donald Beer in Pittsfield emphasized the need to adhere to reasonable standards of program, teaching and facilities so that needs of all the student body are met. Both also noted that over the last ten years the purpose of the accrediting process has moved toward this goal rather than that of measuring - as in the past - a school's ability to ready a student for college.

Mahar's goals do not differ from those of other public secondary schools. The regional comprehensive high school is designed to prepare some students for college, some students for post-secondary training and the remainder for the immediate "world of work". Whether overcrowding with its obvious effect on access to shops, to the library, to physical education, to studio space impinges upon the ability of Mahar to meet student needs remains, however a matter for the community to judge.

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Town Pounds

AN OLD NEW ENGLAND RARITY

Like New England's covered bridges, her old town pounds are becoming rare. There is much in early New England to remind us of its basic dependence on farming. Town commons originally offered a kind of cooperative pasture for the town cows. It is obvious why it seemed natural to thrifty John Adams to pasture his cow on the White House lawn, as we are told on reliable authority that he did. No other part of the country had such cooperative grazing and no other had town pounds. They are as uniquely New England as were the early gate houses.

With the great dependence on farming of all the early New England towns, it was inevitable that they would develop some arrangement for rescuing wandering livestock. Thus Wendell, about 1820, appropriated a sum of money for the building of a 30 by 30 ft. town pound. Like the stone walls designed to keep the animals from wandering, the early town pounds also were made of stones, the largest of them pulled by horses or oxen on crude but efficient stone boats.

Only a favored few towns still have their old town pounds. Wendell is one of those few. Our treasured pound is located on the north side of the Montague Road just west of the Wicket Pond Road entrance. There many decades ago, the lost animals were kept until claimed by their owners who then paid a small sum for their "keep".

More and more, as we probe into Wendell's past, we find that it had a colorful history. Yankee ingenuity, frugality and independence keep appearing wherever we look. Modern technology has replaced the simple methods of long ago, but the unbeatable Yankee qualities are as indestructible as the stone walls they built.

by Marion Herrick

Rt.2 ~ More Study

FINAL F.E.I.S. SLATED FOR 1981

In recent communication with the Mass. Department of Public Works, the Wendell Post learned that the publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for reconstruction of Rt.2 has been set back to a probable 1981 date. The latest snag is a reworking of the noise study.

Apparently a new computer model for evaluating the data has been developed to meet revised guidelines. Much of the old data can be used, but some new spot monitoring will be required.

The project, in the planning stages since 1956, has been the subject of numerous complaints by environmental groups who oppose its construction through the Wendell State Forest.

The bridge which spans the Millers River between Erving Center and Wendell has been closed by the Wendell Selectmen to all vehicles due to its weakened and unsafe condition.

Wendell Highway Surveyor Joe Williams says the bridge's ailments are the combination of a number of things. Some support blocks on the Erving side have fallen away, the beams beneath the bridge are twisting, and the bridge is seperating in the middle. Wendell residents are advised not to use the bridge until the full extent of the deterioration can be determined by state inspectors.

Chinese Food: Hunan Gardens in Amherst has possibly the best egg rolls in the state, and a very good pupu platter. Sze's in Northampton is good, but the portions are small. Try the eggplant.

If you're on Rt. 202 in the Granby area and get the munchies, try the Granby Inn for their Polish and Lithuanian specialties. The rye bread alone is worth going in for. It is a classic roadside type place.

The new New Salem Restaurant and Store on 202 gets four stars. They seem to have found the perfect melding of "natural" and typical All-American cuisine. Their breakfasts are scrumptious. (Real maple syrup!) Fine cheeses, fruits and herbs are for sale in the store.

Ambrosia in Amherst serves an excellent antipasto and outrageously sinful desserts.

Try Donna's Black and White frappes at the Wendell Country Store. They are delicious and she loves to make 'em.

The Wendell Free Library Notes

by Tina Cohen

Archives --dull and ancient? Not for the Wendell Free Library. With an eye to the future, and next years town bicentenial, the Library is eager to cultivate a collection of archives preserving all aspects of Wendell's past. Our collection not only contains books and papers, but videotapes! Library trustees taped two interviews of oral history with Broadus Mitchell and Everett Richetts, and recorded one and a half hours of Old Home Day 1980. These tapes will be edited and shown at the library in the near future. Many thanks to George Gulick, Bruce Cohen, and Ephraim Robbins who provided much help in the process.

Lois Carey and Tina Cohen attended 2 days of workshops on Archive Conservation, sponsored by the New England Document Conservation Center. Lois made a survey of the library building and collection to determine what measures we can take in better preserving our collection. Town residents are encouraged to donate to the Library old materials they may have relating to the town, such as maps, programs of events, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

The Library has photostated copies of historical material on Wendell available at the library. 24 copies were sold at Old Home Day at a price of $1.00 each. Discarded books were sold for a profit of $7.00 for the Friends of the Library. Annie Hartjens made a generous contribution of books to the library. Thank you Annie!

The Board of Trustees has decided to enlarge its membership to nine members, leaving 2 of those positions currently unfilled. Interested persons should come to a trustees meeting, the 1st Sat. of every month at the library at 11 AM, or speak to Lois Carey. Lois has been named Head Librarian. Tina Cohen steps down from that position and will begin part-time work as a librarian and archivist at Deerfield Academy. Ingrid Pfohl replaces Donna Liebl as Chair of the Board.

Six feature films were shown this summer, and an afternoon of short subjects during Old Home Day was well attended. The Library also sponsored a children's story hour every Saturday morning in August, run by Margaret Stebbins and Kathy Becker. There was also a poetry reading by Mike Tretter and Bob Leet of their own writings.

The Library has subscribed to the magazine CoEvolution Quaterly. Issues are now available.

Welcome to Judy Wilder, who has joined us as a member of the Trustees.

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Spray: cont. from pg 1

Economies figured in the search for an alternative. Selectman Simos told the N.U. representatives "it is unreasonable for N. U. not to come up with a figure if the cost is the critical factor." Arthur Bradley, N. U. Franklin Co. Dist. Manager replied, "that is a reasonable request."

The importance of this dickering is that without another means for controlling the brush, Wendell and Northeast Utilities are headed for a legal confrontation. The spraying contractor has stopped short of the Wendell border to use his crew on other jobs. But N.U. has not promised that they will not continue spraying yet this year. N.U.'s Payne would say only, "We would not do any spraying until we told you we were going to come in: The negotiation for an alternative method would not necessarily preclude resumption of the spraying according to the N.U. people.

The by-laws prohibiting the herbicide spraying are yet to be approved by the Attorney General's office. Apparently, the delay resulted from the Annual Town Meeting Warrant going astray in the mail somewhere between Wendell and Boston. So the warrant came to Asst. Attorney Gen. Henery O'Connell's attention only late in August. On Sept. 3, O'Connell told the Post that he would not be able to review the bylaws until the following week because of a backlog of pressing work.

Formal approval aside, the will of the town meeting is clear. By overwhelming margins on June 5 and on August 27 voters approved the bylaws and put up the money to enforce them.

At the August 21 meeting Selectman Simos assured N.U., "We will find a way to make the bylaws effective. It is not in Northeast Utilities' best interest to be rigid about policy." Payne replied, "We do obey all laws." Wendell resident George Sherman asked, "Is N.U trying to test Wendell's bylaws?" Art Brodeur stated, "Unequivocally, no!"

But questions remain and Keller submitted two pages of them to Brodeur and Payne. Among them were the following:

- Did these chemicals contain dioxin?
- What proof could the company offer that the spraying would be quality controlled?
- What alternatives to spraying had been considered?
- How did N.U. intend to respond to Wendell's banning such spraying?
- Did the company keep any records on people who were opposed to herbicides?
- How would the company prevent drift and seepage into other areas outside the power line right-of-way?

Brodeur said that he would see that the questions went to the right person for a response.

In Ludlow, MA, the court found that there was enough question to issue a cease and decist order against N.U. spraying there, based on a complaint filed by the Ludlow Board of Health. If N.U. cannot find another option besides Bouvel 520 for its clearing program, a court date with Wendell appears certain.

"The Town will require expert testimony to argue that the materials used are harmful," says Simos, "my concern is winning!" At stake, legally and actually is the community's right to be assured that it can protect itself and its citizens.

BANVEL 520

Banvel-520 is an oil soluble herbicide manufacturered by Velsicol Chemical Corp. and used to control unwanted brush and broad leaf plants.

Banvel-520 is composed of two herbicides: Dicamba (3,6 dichloro-o-anisic acid) a low toxicity benzoic acid and 2,4-D (2,4-dichlorophenoxy acetic acid), a phenoxy acid which has recently come under the scrutiny of the EPA because of its chemical similarity to 2,4,5-T (2,4,5 Trichlorophenoxy acetic acid), the herbicide suspended by the EPA last year due to its carcinogenic, mutagenic and fetotoxic effects.

PRESS RELEASE: from D.A.'s office

Victim/Witness Assistance

District Attorney Thomas G. Simons today applauded the action of the State Legislature in continuing the District Attorney's office Victim/Witness Assistance Unit.

For three years, the Victim/Witness Assistance Unit was federally funded by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. That funding is ending in accordance with the standard three year funding limitations of LEAA.

The recently enacted Massachusetts budget provided for the continuation of the Hampshire-Franklin District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Programs by State funding. Several other Victim/Witness Assistance Programs in the state were also continued by the State Legislature.

The Victim/Witness Assistance Unit of the District Attorney's office provides support and information regarding the court process and social service referrals to victims and witnesses of violent crimes. Last year the staff assisted over 500 victims and witnesses of violent crimes in Hampshire and Franklin Counties.

District Attorney Simons has long been a strong supporter of victim/witness assistance programs. His repeated efforts in testifying before legislative committees, contacting state legislators, and urging support for victim/witness assistance programs by the Massachusetts Legislature were recently noted in NOVA, the national Victim/Witness Assistance newsletter.

District Attorney Simons declared "I am extremely pleased that all of the hard work to continue our Victim/Witness program has been successful. This program of direct work with victims and witnesses of violent crimes is absolutely essential for successful prosecution of criminals. It is a concrete example that our criminal justice system is becoming more oriented toward victims and witnesses."

The Gypsy Moth Problem

At a meeting on Aug. 20th in the Franklin County Courthouse over 100 county residents discussed the gypsy moth problem. Representative Bill Benson, who sponsored the meeting, arranged for Stan Hood of the Department of Environmental Management to be present. According to Hood, "The most serious problem the gypsy moth presents is public annoyance. When people and the gypsy moth come together, that's where we find our biggest problem. People just don't like those big caterpillars." Hood went on to explain that the gypsy moth is not a destroyer of forests. He observed very little tree mortality in the sixties.. Hood also speculates that next year we will experience a similiar problem of one hundred percent defoliation. But, many populations will collapse from Wilt Disease by early July. After a collapse, it takes seven to fifteen years for another outbreak to occur.

When asked what the official D.E.M. policy was on gypsy moth control, Hood responded," The D.E.M. is taking the biological approach. The present policy is to let nature take its course." Another favored control is Bacillus Therningensus, a bacteria which kills caterpillars.

The discussion turned toward methods people have used in the area. One resident of Northfield whose house looked like "a live mohair sweater", used D.D.T. Even this extreme, and illegal measure failed to prevent the yard from being totally defoliated.

The feasibility of a county wide spray program was also discussed including a reminder from a Wendell resident about Wendell's anti spray bylaws. The town would most likely go along with a county wide biological control program, but would not go along with the use of chemical insecticides.

The meeting ended with Bill Benson urging people to write to the governor in order to express their concerns.

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Selectmen's Minutes

WENDELL TOWN HALL

July 1, 1980

Ted Lewis asked Highway Surveyor Joseph Williams if former Highway Surveyor David Bardsley was still working for the Highway Dept. Joe stated that David's last day was Monday, June 30. He further stated that he had been informed earlier that David's termination at this time was the wish of the Board of Selectmen. The two members present stated that they were unaware that such a decision had been made. They went on to reaffirm their position that the Highway Surveyor has a right to hire and fire all employees for the highway dept. without approval from the Board of Selectmen.

Discussed the 4 ft. culvert that needs to be replaced on Locks Village Road near "Stillwaters."

Discussed center road line marking. Cost approx. S.03/ft.

Discussed the Chapter 90 Montague Rd. project.

Three members of the Finance Committee were present at the request of the Board. The first item discussed was why the Finance Committee had refused to transfer approx. $10.00 from the Reserve Fund to the Memorial Day Account. Finance Committee Chairman Donald Stone stated that his Board felt that this expenditure was controllable and that the Cemetary Dept. should not have overexpended. Ted Lewis stated the Board's position is that this item should be covered by the Reserve Fund and that this was the least that we can do locally for our veterans. After more discussion, Ted stated that the Finance Committee is baloney. A request was made for an apology to this statement. It was denied.

Other transfers were also presented to the Finance Committee for their approval.

Opened bids on Snow Plows and Sanders. Snow Plow - Tri County Contractors Supply - Frink-Mod 609K - $2,495. R.W. Thompson Co - Viking - Mod 120HSE9 - $2,647. Graves Equipment - Gledhill - Mod 11HTB1WH - $1,990. Sanders - R.W.Thompson Co. - Fox - Mod 0560-09 - $6,559. extra - Catwalks, Mudflaps & ladder + $249.00. Tri County Contractors Supply - Highlander - Mod HL-HY-2P - $5,983.00. Graves Equipment - Torwel - Mod 4DGHW86 - $5,965.00.

All bids were taken under advisement until 7/8/80 when the awards will be made. In the meantime Highway Surveyor Joseph Williams is to look at some snow plows and sanders with the salesmen and make a recommendation to the Board.

Highway Surveyor Joseph Williams informed the Board that he has a chance to rent a backhoe without operator for a use rate of $14./hr. It was further reported that the old Ford tractor needs a lot of repair work.

July 8, 1980

The Board started discussing the Highway employee situation when Ted Lewis stated that Town Counsel had called him and recommended an executive session. Ken Simos said that he could see no need for an executive session and Ed Boland said nothing. Ted stated that David Bardsley had contacted the District Attorney's office and that they in turn had called him stating that David had the possibility of a civil suit. Ken then brought out these points:

1. David Bardsley's appointment was up June 30.
2. His elected position was up with the election.
3. Joe Williams never hired nor fired David.

Ted said that last week (July 1) Joe Williams had informed the Board that he had been informed that it was the wish of the Board that David Bardsley not work after June 30. Ken stated David was not hired - It was up to Joe Williams to hire and fire. Ken asked what the point is. Ted stated that there is a possibility of a civil suit against either the Board or Ken and that he wanted all to be aware.

Laurey Kenerson of Bay State Forestry made a proposal to survey and map the Town Real Property. The charge would be $140/da. The Board agreed to have Kenerson do the maps and they will get the deeds to him as soon as possible. The work will begin in Sept.

Voted to give the Guard Rail bid to Chas. Freedman of Pittsfield. Bid was open 6/24/80.

Highway Surveyor Joseph Williams recommended accepting the Tri-County Contractors Supply proposals for both the Sander and Plow. These items meet the specifications 100%. The Graves proposals do not,even though the price is lower. It was reported that the Frink is the much heavier plow. Voted to purchase a Frink plow from Tri County for a bid price of $2,495. Voted to purchase a Highlander Model HL-HY-2P Sander from Tri County for a purchase price of $5,983.

It will be necessary to appoint a trustee to Mt. Grace - Temporary Ken Simos.

Set August 5th at 7:00 p.m. for Special Town Meeting.

July 15, 1980

Discussed the work done on Locks Village Road with Road Surveyor Joseph Williams.

Ken reported that Jack Gates stated that the Board should ask David Bardsley what he wants, take it under advisement and report it to Town Counsel and also have his counsel contact our counsel.

Carroll Holmes, Reg. Supervisor of DEM will meet with the Board and 5 citizens any Wed. or Thurs. at 6:00 p.m. at the Wendell State Forest Office.

Discussed sub-division and roads with the Planning Board.

The Planning Board would like to use the Town Hall July 21, 24 and 29th for Public Hearings on zoning.

J. Moynihan said that there is a 50% matching fund grant available to get some of the historic documents microfilmed.

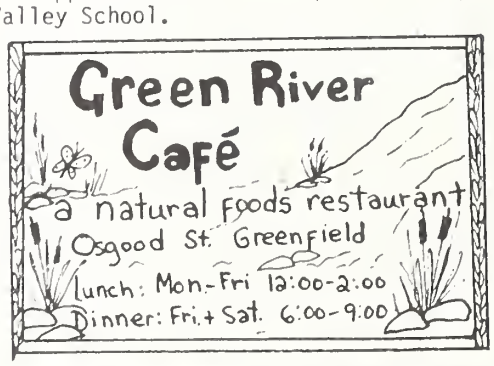
The State has now given permission for Town to increase certain fees.

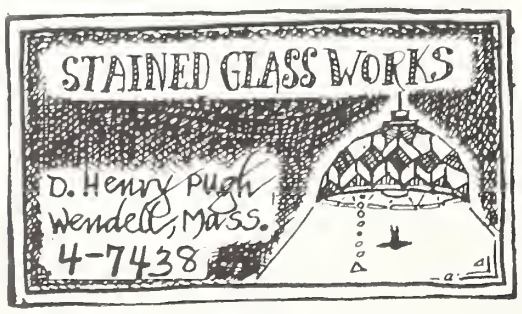
July 22, 1980

Opened bids for Guard Rail and Posts. Penn Culvert Co. - 1000 ft. Guard Rail - $3.65 lin.ft. - 155 Posts - $$27.25 ea. - 155 Offset Blocks - $6.25 ea. Ralph W. Whiteman - AWARDED - 1000 ft. Guard Rail - $2.74 lin.ft. - 155 Posts - $23.75 ea. - 155 Offset Blocks - $5.99 ea.

The weekly payroll warrant was approved

Approved School Zone plan for Maple Valley School.





August 5, 1980

Signed weekly warrant, read mail. Attended Special Town Meeting.

August 12, 1980

Signed weekly warrant. Accepted petition calling for a Special Town Meeting. Set date and time, Wed. August 27th, 7:00 p.m. Signed warrant. Instructed clerk to send a letter to Northeast Utilities informing them of our spraying by-laws. Instructed clerk to send a letter to John Sullivan requesting that he remove the shrubs that are obstructing safe entrance to Wendell Depot Road from Montague Road. Appointed Thomas Ploof of New Salem, Asst. Inspector of Buildings. The Board congratulates the "Old Home Day Committee" for a job well done.

August 19, 1980

Sandra Bardsley asked if the Selectmen felt that the School Committee's action last evening was legal?

1. The Committee accepting the two appointed members.
2. Shouldn't our 3 elected members be serving as voting members not just sitting at home as a "member-at-large."

The Board discussed Monday evening's School Committee's action and some of the apparent irregularities that occured. The Board voted 2 yes (Ted & Ed) - 1 no (Ken) to instruct Town Counsel to look into the legality of having the two appointed school committee members as voting members.

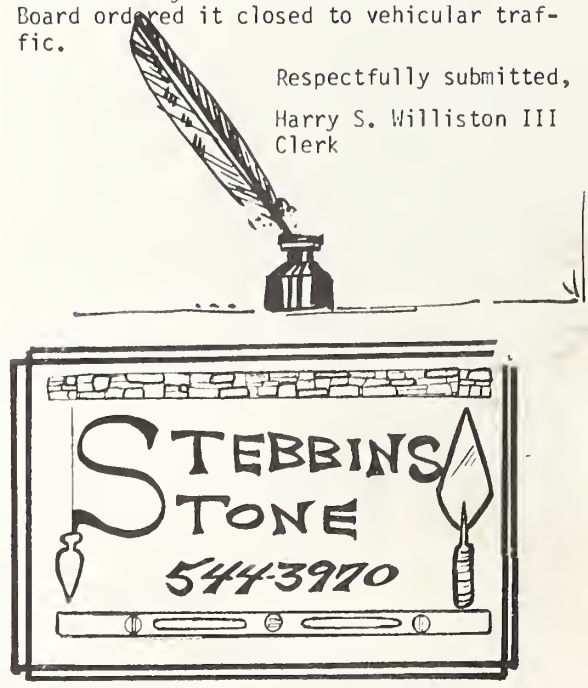
Finance Committee member Anne Zak askec the Board about the amount to be raised to defend the pesticide by-law in court. Ans. $2,000. Administrative Asst. Tom G. gave a brief report on the steps necessary to take NU to court if they spray their right-of-way that runs through Wendell. It was suggested to the Board by Mike Idoine that they ask the Town Counsel to contact a law firm that has expertise in environmental affairs to help with this case. Ken is going to call Art Brodeur, Manager of NU in Greenfield to ask for a meeting to try to divert the spraying through Wendell. Mike Idoine asked the Board what his representation to the F.C.P.B. should mean. The Board expressed the thought that he should align himself with the smaller towns in any way that can help Wendell.

August 25, 1980

Signed weekly payroll and bill warrant. Appointed Paul Petruski, Wiring Inspector. Annual Salary $500. Road boss Joe Williams requested a raise for his crew. It will be considered Sept. 2nd. Joe reported that the Old Farley Road bridge that crosses the Millers River in Erving Center is starting to break away and should be closed. The Board ordered it closed to vehicular traffic.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry S. Williston III
Clerk



Posting Place

ANNOUNCEMENT/MEETING

Persons working on the Wendell Bicentennial guilt next Wednesday, Sept. 10 at the home of Brenda Vincent. Newcomers welcome. No experience is necessary and there is complete freedom of design. If you would like to obtain a piece of muslin or want information on the next meeting date, call Brenda at 544-3981.

NEED PEOPLE to fill the following COMMITTEE VACANCIES:

1 Planning Board Member
4 Arts Council Members
2 School Study Committee Members
1 Woman for Garage/Fire Station Study Committee

Any interested persons attend Selectmen's meeting Tuesday Sept. 23, 1980, no later than 7:30 p.m.

WENDELL BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

The Wendell BiCentennial Committee will be approaching various town organizations in an effort to co-ordinate BiCentennial activities and ideas.

POSTED MEETING

Board of Selectmen
Town Hall 7:00
1st and 3rd Tuesdays - Reg. Business Mtg.
2nd, 4th, and 5th Tue. - Sign Payroll, bill warrant, read mail, act on emergencies.

Wendell Planning Board

1st and 3rd Mondays
7:30 Town Hall

Board of Health

2nd Tuesday
7:30 Town Hall

Wendell Free Library Board of Trustees

1st Saturday
Library 11:00

Assist Assessors

Wendell Assessors are looking for help in dealing with their heavy work load. Residents interested in research and orderly organization are needed to cover work areas that might need more thorough attention.

Assessor Pliny Stebbins pointed out the following areas as possible areas of investigation:

-State Forest valuations
-Research chapter 61 &61A and appropriate landholders.
-Clarify personal property and livestock valuation.

His hope is that an assistant assessor might learn a specialized area thoroughly. If successful, the board could more nearly rationalize and equalize taxpayers' valuations.

Vital Statistics

Births

Elizabeth Anne Bartus
Born: June 17, 1980 at Franklin County Hospital
Father: John Frances Bartus
Mother: Marilou Joan Milewski Bartus, Main St. Wendell.

Jacob Orville White Diemand
Born: Aug. 14, 1980 at Franklin County Hospital
Father: David Hamilton White
Mother: Anne Marie Diemand of Farley Rd. Wendell.

To those experiencing another kind of new beginning, congratulations. You have reached another...

Milestone

Kindergarten:

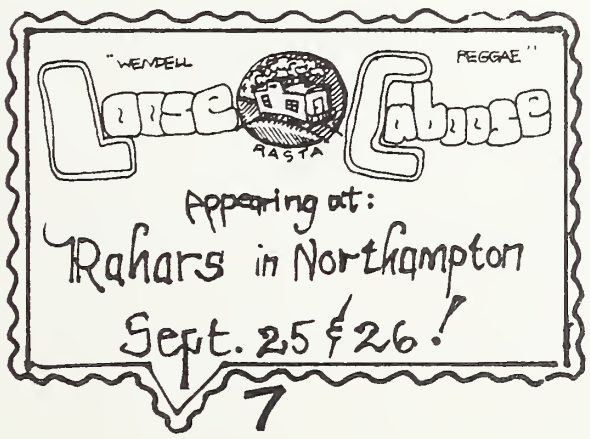
Girls	Boys
Bardsley, Lisa	Ducharme, Cory
Bezio, Amy	Judice, David
Hartjens, Kristina	Scott, Joshua
Hiscock, Julia	Seguin, Norman
Migdol-Reffsin, Rachel	Shaw, Cory
Pistone, Margaret	Taylor, Nathan
Simos, Carey	
Wetherby, Gretchen	

Grade 1:

Girls	Boys
Abrahmson, Adelpha	Chase, Matthew
Diemand, Billie Sue	Facey, James
Gardner, Michelle	Froebel, Seth
Heard, Amy	Green, Ned
Rugalski, Christine	Kosuda, Stephen
	Putnam, Haldimand
	Ready, Glenn
	Ring, Nicholas
	Sylvia, Benjamin
	Walsh, Samuel
	Wilder, David

Rural Arts Plans Fall Offerings

The annual meeting of the New Salem/ Wendell Rural Arts Committee will be held at the home of Brenda Vincent on Cooleyville Rd. on September 30th instead of the 21st as previously scheduled. Plans for fall course offerings will be made. New members are needed. If you are interested, call Brenda at 4-3981.



Police Log

7/12/80	one car accident on Farley Rd. no injuries
7/14/80	accident at residence of Paul Diemand car rolled down driveway
7/16/80	burned car recovered from Farley Rd. stolen from Turners Falls
7/28/80	break at Swift River School
7/28/80	two ten speed bikes recovered
8/2/80	Andy Chambers and Bilbert Farmer reported eggs thrown at their house. broken front window of door of residence
8/6/80	Ann Diemand reported knapsack stolen from truck
8/8/80	accident on Depot Hill Aldo Torre taken to hospital
8/12/80	Dean Bennett reported van stopped in front of house and someone prowled in the yard
8/14/80	break and vandalism reported at trailer and camp on Farley Rd.
8/16/80	accident at corner of Depot and New Salem Rd.
8/19/80	mail taken from mailbox on Locks Village Rd.
8/30/80	Emma Cappelluzzo reported gate to hay field on Lock Hill Rd. vandalized .

Wells were pumped out at the homes of: Emma Cappelluzzo, Rick Drohen, Harry Williston and Phil Stowell.

Land Transfers

6/16/80: Walter C. Jones to Gerald A. Brown, Bullard Pasture Road-13.161 Acres.

6/20/80: Lottie M. Hurtle to Richard C. Hurtle, East side of New Salem Road - Bldg. & 7.50 Acres.

7/31/80: Phyllis Gagliani to Steven N & Diane Gross, East side of Wendell Depot Road - Bldgs. & 20.2 Acres.

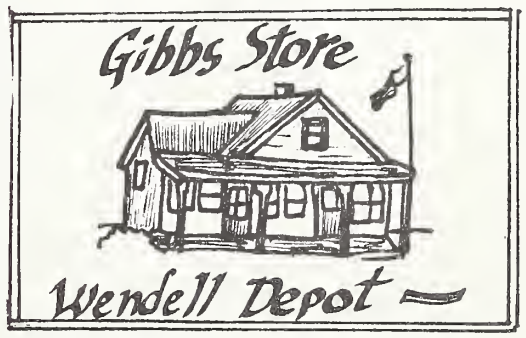
8/5/80: Irene (Rush) Woods to James John Barilla, Bullard Pasture Road - Bldgs. & 8 Acres.

8/1/80: George D. Nuttleman(deceased) to Deborah Ann Nuttleman, Lock's Village Road - 5 Acres.

8/8/80: Janice E. Holmes to Gary Holmes, Stone Road - Bldgs. & 5.5 Acres.

8/8/80: Sally Jones Cope to Lowell Scott, West side of Bear Mt. Road - Bldgs. & 1 Acre.

8/11/80: Carolyne D. Carey to Saul Gliserman, Mitchell A. Kosh, Mark Jay Rosen, East side of Wendell Road - Bldgs. & 2 Acres & 8,145 sq. ft.



Outdoors In Wendell

with Myron Becker
for Carline

Late July, fleeing from the oppressive heat wave that had left most of my favorite fishing holes a series of tepid puddles... I found myself staring from the window of the DeHaveland Otter float plane 1000 ft. above the massive Manicougan River contemplating unbelievingly a terrain which was definitely not Wendell. Fulfilling a dream of many years, I was on the second leg of a week long fishing safari into the wilderness of northern Quebec. The first leg consisted of an often spectacular 18 hour drive to Baie Comeau 250 miles north of Quebec City. From there we were flying into LacBerte, a 15 mile long lake 120 air miles due north. My view from the plane confirmed absolutely that we were in a foreign environment. This was almost sub-artic country. Weather formations flitted across raw and rocky hills adorned with small ragged spruce trees. Streams and rivers plummeted into the Manicougan from high grey ledges. Literally thousands of lakes of all sizes passed below, most of them never having had their waters pierced by a fisherman's line. There was no drought here. Herds of Caribou and Moose were down there somewhere although we never did see any. The float plane touched down gracefully on Lac Berte and taxied into the cove which sheltered the small but comfortable plywood cabin which was to be home base for the five of us for the next 5 days. The cabin was equiped with 6 bunks, a small kitchen area with gas fueled stove, refrigerator and lights, and 3 red squirrels that ran on potato chips and cookies. Two 6 h.p. motor boats sat on the beach with more than enough gas to supply our fishing needs. The next 5 days were spent exploring the lake and its excellent trout fishing and dodging weather fronts. Wild, orange fleshed Speckled (Brook) Trout from 9-16 inches were our quarry and the only kind of fish in the lake. Fish of 5-6 lbs. are purportedly taken from Berte, but weren't by us. Weather patterns were totally unpredictable, with the wind direction changing often 2 or 3 times a day bringing rain frequently. Temperatures would change from a sunny 85° to a damp, misty 55° in the space of 1 hour. During the rare moments in early morning or evening when the lake was glass smooth, hundreds of trout could be seen dimpling the surface. Next year I am planning a trip further north. I have seen the light.

Back in Wendell, there is indeed a drought. The lack of snow last winter is now showing its most profound effects. Many wells are dry and streams and beaver ponds are parched and warm. Many of our wild trout will die.

And now for the good news ... Miller's River update: I just got off the phone with Pete Otis, head fisheries biologist for the Mass. Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife, who informed me that the state is ready to stock our river as soon as he receives a favorable report from the Division of Water Pollution Control. At Water Pollution Control, I spoke to a Mr. Simpson who is working on the Miller's Project and was informed that a report is at this moment on its way to Pete's desk and it is in fact quite positive. As far as they are concerned, the Miller's River is now very capable of supporting a healthy and edibble trout population "especially in our area". Many old timers around these parts talk about what a great trout stream was the Miller's 20 years ago. With a sound management policy, the river could again be what it was, and soon.

Preliminary Hunting Forecast:

Deer: not as many as last year, but still plentiful.
Partridge(Ruffed Grouse): very few.
Snowshoe Hare(Whites of Jacks): Plentiful and good hunting if we get some snow.
Grey Squirrels: not as scarce as last year, but not plentiful.

There have been some unconfirmed reports of bears in Wendell, so keep your eyes open.
Moose: None See you in November for more complete hunting information.

Baseball on the common is a usual sight this summer, with persons of all ages participating. At bat this particular Saturday afternoon was Everett Bergmann, with Atticus Robinson as catcher.

Thank You ~

Many thanks to the local businesses who provided donations and prizes for Wendell Old Home Day .

Bernie's fruit stand of Orange
Carroll's Supermarket of Orange
Diemand Egg Farm of Wendell
Dirth Lumber Co. of Orange
Foster's Supermarket of Greenfield
Johnson's Package Store of Orange
Mann Lumber Co. of Athol
Mars Bargainland of Orange/Athol
Piggly Wiggly of Orange
Plotkins package store of Orange
Skinner Hardware of Athol
Snows Ice Cream of Greenfield
Teppers of Orange
Town Hardware of Orange
Wendell Country Store

Bill and Jane Mehr, Proprietors

The Cupola Restaurant

Hours:
Daily-11:30am-9pm
Fri.&Sat.-11:30am-10pm
Sundays-9pm-9pm
Closed Tuesdays

29 West Main St.
Orange, Ma.
544-2526

Lou on the Loose

Hello from Lou to you! This has been a go-go summer for Lou on the Loose so I'm going to have to do a lot of catching up. Just sit back, relax and we'll reprise as many of the highlights of musical Wendell this summer as Lou can fit in this latest long-winded epic.

First, the Outerspace Band fell to earth for a warp-drive 10-day New England tour culminating in a performance at the Warwick Inn. Witnesses say they were better than ever and the Space-O's themselves had a great time on the whole trip, this tour with original drummer Kirk "Chief" Kubicek. The amiable Chief, who begins Episcopal Divinity School this fall in N.Y.C., played the last year or so with Larry Forbes, now collaborating with Otis Read of R.I. Their band Oatmeal had a couple late Spring dates in the area with Larry's old partner Pat Jones sitting in. Pat had just returned from an 80 city/120 show (ouch!) crosscountry tour with Jesus Christ Superstar and all those miles have put his already considerable skills miles ahead. Word is he's playing with the local band FX, a potent jazz-rock unit... Three to Get Ready politely suggested to Lou at Warwick recently that I name names so in the interests of my future good health, I can tell you that Jim "Lefty" Cullen and Brian Mallet (with oft-mentioned Doug Huntington) comprise this promising three-piece Wendell group. One listener told me, "What a repertoire! All great songs!" They honor every era of rock or roll but they took their name from Elvis Blue Suede Shoes...

Sept. 5th saw the Warwick debut of Boston-based funk-rock group, the Rhythm Jets, which includes ex-Caboose drummer Jim Cheney...Also new at Warwick this summer were the fun-loving Glasses. Lou has yet to catch them in action but they won fans quickly with their very different act... Tom and Shane Devine continue to work their finely-tuned duo in and around the county. Lately working in New Hampshire a lot, they look forward to finding a good home for their outstanding original songs... Scott and Pam Ritter can be heard locally with their fine folk melodies, but watch for Scott in his hot new Bluegrass quartet...

Perhaps this summer's most exciting event was the Wendell County Women's Music Fest from all reports a spirited and well-attended concert. Lou's gender rendered him unable to cover the event in person, but I'm still hoping to hear taped highlights to report upon in the near future...

Speaking of tape, Loose Caboose were heard live July 5th on WMUA-FM and that same night appeared on Boston's WCVB-TV Five All Night Show. That was a long day! As reggae blossoms in the States, Caboose finds itself at the vanguard with offers from all over New England. They finished up the summer with a highly successful three-week tour that included an appearance at Ted Kennedy's summer home in Hyannis Port. The up-to-the-minute word on their Jamaican recording trip is still positive but scheduling difficulties have prevented the making of the Loose One's first album. Maybe in my next column. Meanwhile this column's on its way to the presses. See you next time.

Lou Caboose

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